REMARKS

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in light of the examiner's action Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled. Before taking up the claims in detail attention will be briefly given to the references cited by the Examiner. The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 as anticipated, 35 USC Section 102(a), by the US Patent to Holman et al No. 7,087,348. The Holman et al patent is directed to electrodes for use in electrochemical devices, and more particularly to coated electrode particles for use in solid electrochemical cells, and materials and systems for improving electronic conductivity and repulsive force characteristics of an electrode network. The present invention is directed to separators for electrochemical devices which have had an ionically conductive solid compound incorporated in gel polymer or solid state separators. The addition of the compound improves ionic conductivity, and cycling of the devices. The Holman disclosure is at best an invitation to experiment.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-10 as anticipated 35USC Section 102(a) by the US Patent to Nakahara et al No. 7,226,697. The Nakahara patent is directed to an electricity storage device, which has a positive electrode, which comprises a nitroxyl compound having a nitroxyl radical moiety. The Nakahara patent does not disclose the ionically conductive solid compound of applicants as an additive to separators to improve ionic conductivity.

Claim 1 calls for a polymer gel electrolyte separator for electrochemical devices which comprise a polymeric matrix, an

ionically conductive solid compound, and a liquid electrolyte, which combination is not found in the references alone or in combination.

Claim 2 calls for a solid state separator for electrochemical devices which comprises an ionically conductive solid compound, a polymeric binder, and a liquid electrolyte, which combination is not found in the references, alone or in combination.

Claim 3 calls for a polymer gel separator for electrochemical devices, which comprises a polymeric matrix, a solid metal oxide, an ionically conductive solid compound, and a liquid electrolyte containing at least one salt which is not found in the references alone or in combination.

Claim 4 calls for a solid state separator for electrochemical devices which comprises a solid metal oxide, an ionically conductive solid compound, a polymeric binder, and a liquid electrolyte containing at least one salt, which is not found in the references alone or in combination.

Claim 5 dependent on claim 1 or 3 with all their limitations also calls for compounds not found in the references alone or in combination.

Claim 6 dependent on claim 2 or 4, with all their limitations calls for compounds not found in the references alone or in combination.

Claim 7 dependent on claim 5, and indirectly on claims 1 or 3 with all their limitations calls for fluorides which are not found in the references, alone, or in combination.

Claim 8 dependent on claim 6, and indirectly on claims 3 or 4, with all their limitations, calls for fluorides which are not found in the references alone or in combination.

As described above it is believed that all the claims define new and novel patentable subject matter.

Accordingly it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is requested and urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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